

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082203

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ASEAN

SUBJECT: REGIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ASEAN

REFS: A) MANILA 4789; B) STATE 256640 (1977)

1. WE ARE HIGHLY GRATIFIED THAT GOP IS TAKING THE LEAD
TO DEVELOP ASEAN PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
TO BE DISCUSSED WITH US EXPERTS HOPEFULLY BY EARLY MAY.

2. AS STATED IN OUR MEMORANDUM OF LAST OCTOBER AND
CONTAINED IN PARA. 6 OF REF. B WE COULD BEST RESPOND TO
ASEAN REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURE
AND FORESTRY, NON-FORMAL EDUCATION, ENERGY, SCIENCE AND
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TECHNOLOGY, AND TRAINING. OF THESE WE WOULD BE
PARTICULARLY RECEPTIVE TO 1) A REGIONAL EFFORT TO IMPROVE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND
PRODUCTIVITY AND TACKLING THE LONGER TERM PROBLEM OF
CONSERVING LAND, WATER AND FOREST RESOURCES AND
2) COOPERATION WITH ASEAN TO EXPLORE AND DEVELOP THEIR
INDIGENOUS ENERGY RESOURCES THROUGH A POSSIBLE ENERGY

ASSESSMENT OF THE ASEAN REGION AND THROUGH PROVIDING A BROAD RANGE OF USG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN MANY PHASES OF CONVENTIONAL AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES. US COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY ARE TO BE THE

TWO MAIN THEMES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE REGION.

3. THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING ON PART OF SOME ASEAN OFFICIALS ON SUGGESTED APPROACHES TO SELECTION OF PROJECTS CONTAINED IN OUR OCTOBER MEMORANDUM (PARA. 7, REF. B). WE ARE AWARE THAT SEAMEO'S AND OTHER EXISTING REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS ARE NOT LINKED WITH ASEAN AND HAVE MEMBERSHIP WHICH EXTENDS BEYOND ASEAN MEMBERS. WE ONLY SUGGESTED POSSIBLE USE OF THESE INSTITUTIONS AS AVAILABLE RESOURCE WHICH COULD SPEED UP IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS. THIS COULD BE DONE ON A CONTRACTURAL BASIS BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE INSTITUTIONS (JUST AS THE USG CONTRACTS WITH UNIVERSITIES OR BROOKINGS FOR A JOB TO BE DONE). AT ANY RATE, WE WOULD ABIDE BY ASEAN'S JUDGMENT AND POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES. SIMILARILY, THE PROPOSAL TO USE MODEL PROJECTS ALREADY IN OPERATION IN ASEAN COUNTRIES WAS MEANT TO INDICATE THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD LEAD TO THE SPEEDIER IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO ASEAN. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE WOULD NOT ENTERTAIN
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ASEAN PROPOSALS FOR NEW PROJECTS.

4. DAS HEGINBOTHAM DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE REGION SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT SPEED THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION IF AN ASEAN TEAM OF DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS FROM EACH COUNTRY WOULD COME TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS REGIONAL AID PROJECT PROPOSALS. THIS WOULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE THAT ASEAN CAN GET FULLEST EXPOSURE TO RANGE OF AREAS WE MIGHT SUPPORT AND PROJECTS COULD BE DISCUSSED WITH A NUMBER OF PROGRAMMING AND-TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN AID/WASHINGTON AND MIGHT SPEED UP THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS AT OUR END. IT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM AND DESIGN PROJECTS WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE SEVERAL CONSULTATIONS AT BOTH ENDS AND WE WILL BE GUIDED BY ASEAN'S DESIRE ON WHERE THE JOINT WORKING GROUP SHOULD MEET FIRST. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF ASEAN WOULD FORWARD TO US PROJECT PROPOSALS IN WRITING AS THEY ARE DEVELOPED AND BEFORE THE JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETS.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY MANILA CONVEY ABOVE TO MR. FERNANDEZ. WE ENCOURAGE OTHER ASEAN POSTS TO DRAW

UPON THIS MESSAGE IN INFORMING HOST GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED IN PREPARATION OF ASEAN
AID PROPOSALS.

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